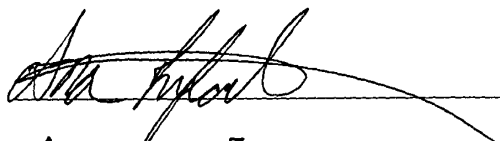


Express Mail number EU 865 856 615 US, Deposited August 26, 2003. I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

  
Ana Infante

DT-6571

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANT: Christian Lutz

SERIAL NO.: Not yet known

FILED: Concurrently

FOR: A Locking Device for Two, Displaceable Relative to Each Other  
Components

EXAMINER: --

GROUP: --

Mail Stop: Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR sections 1.97 and 1.98, applicant respectfully requests that the documents listed on the attached form PTO-1449, be made of record and considered in connection with the examination of this application. Copies of the listed documents are enclosed. Translation of the foreign language documents is not readily available.

U.S. Patent No. 5,787,759 discloses a position control apparatus for a steering column.

U.S. Patent No. 5,989,679 discloses a device for adjusting length, and/or height, and/or tilt of a steering column.

U.S. Patent No. 6,139,057 discloses a position control apparatus for a steering column.

European Publication EP 0 440 403 B1 discloses an adjustable steering column mechanism.

European Publication E 0 755 842 B1 discloses a guiding and locking system for a steering column and including a stationary element (21) and a displaceable, relative thereto, element (71) provided with respective toothed racks the teeth of which engage each other in the locking position of the steering column.

European Publication EP 0 796 780A2 discloses an interlocking device for opposed racks in an adjustable steering column.

German Patent DE 36 19 125 C1 discloses a receiving device for a height and inclination-adjustable steering column and including two receiving plates (6, 7) fixedly securable to a vehicle body and between which a steering column (2) is received. Each of the receiving plates is associated with a locking plate (21, 22)

and is connected therewith by toothing (23, 23). The receiving plates are secured to the respective locking plates by a clamping device (31).

German Patent DE 39 14 608 C1 discloses a steering column with a height-adjustable steering wheel and a length-adjustable steering shaft and including an adjustable steering column tube (1) which is connected with a support member (2) fixed to the vehicle body. For releasably connecting the steering column tube (1) to the support member (2), there are provided respective toothings (4, 6), with the steering column tube (1) being secured to the support member (2) by a locking element (5). To insure a reliable engagement of respective toothings, the locking element (5) is supported for a limited pivotal movement and for displacement parallel to the engagement plant.

German Patent DE 195 42 472 C1 discloses an adjustable steering support for a variable positioning of a steering wheel and including a rotatable locking bolt (8) rotatable between locking and adjusting positions, two toothing plates (10, 11) fixedly supported on the locking bolt (8), and two holding plates (2a, 2b) associated, respectively, with the vehicle body (being fixedly secured thereto) and the steering column and through which the locking bolt (8) extends with a clearance. In the locking position, the toothings of the toothing plates (10, 11) cooperate with respective toothings (2b, 3b) of the holding plates (2a, 3a).

German Patent DE 198 46 292 C2 discloses a locking device for a height-inclination-adjustable steering column with two components one of which is secured to the vehicle body and the other of which is formed as a steering column housing and each of which is provided with a tothing (5, 4, respectively), with the tothings being equipped with magnets of the same polarity so that they are repulsed when the tips of respective teeth are located directly opposite each other.

German Publication DE 198 39 496 A1 discloses a locking device for two, displaceable relative to each other, components (3, 4) of a height- and inclination-adjustable steering column and provided with respective toothed surfaces (6, 5). The locking device includes a support housing (10) for pivotally receiving the tothing surface (6) associated with the steering column component (3). The tothing surface (6) extends at an angle  $\alpha$  to the tothing surface (5) in the unlocking position of the locking device. The pivotal position of one of the tothing surfaces insures a reliable engagement at any position of the two components.

German Publication DE 199 15 341 A1 discloses a locking device for a height- and inclination-adjustable steering column having two, displaceable relative to each other components provided with oppositely located toothed racks (10, 20). In order to prevent incomplete engagement of respective teeth of the two

racks in the "head-to-head" position of the tips of opposite teeth, one of the racks (20) and a respective components (2a) are connected by a guide element (5) having several curves (3a, 3b, 3c, 3d) which provide for a limited relative movement between the toothed rack (20) and the component (2a). To this end, the guide element (5) is provided with at least one spring element (6).

German Publication DE 101 30587 A1 discloses a device for adjusting a steering wheel and including means (12) for adjusting a position of a steering column (2) relative to a support (3). The adjusting means (12) includes two locking members (18, 19) associated, respectively, with the steering column (2) and the support (3) and provided with cooperating (33, 23). To insure a complete engagement of the teeth of the opposite toothings, means are provided for pivoting one (18) of the locking members.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexander Zinchuk

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Reg. No. 30,541

Dated: August 26, 2003

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New York, New York 10019

Form PTO-1449  INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION IN AN APPLICATION		Docket No.:DT-6571						Serial No.: Not Yet Known						
		Applicant(s): Christian Lutz												
		Filing Date: Concurrently						Group:						
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS														
Exam. Init.		Document Number						Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date if appropriate		
	AA													
	AB													
	AC													
	AD													
	AE													
	AF													
	AG													
	AH													
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	AK													
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS														
		Document Number						Date	COUNTRY	Class	Subclass	TRANSLATION YES NO		
	ALL	9	8	3	9	4	9	6	3/2000	Germany				X
	AMM	9	8	4	6	2	9	2	4/2000	Germany				X
	ANN	9	9	1	5	3	4	1	10/2000	Germany				X
	AOO	0	1	3	0	5	8	7	1/2000	Germany				X
	AP													
	AQ													
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)														
	AR													
	AS													
	AT													
EXAMINER											DATE CONSIDERED			

<b>Form PTO-1449</b>		Docket No.: DT-6571				Serial No.: Not Yet Known									
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION IN AN APPLICATION</b>		Applicant(s): Christian Lutz													
		Filing Date: Concurrently				Group:									
<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>															
Exam. Init.		Document Number								Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date if appropriate	
	AA	5	7	8	7	7	5	9	8/1998	Olgren					
	AB	5	9	8	8	6	7	9	11/1999	Shelling, et al					
	AC	6	1	3	9	0	5	7	10/2000	Olgren					
	AD														
	AE														
	AF														
	AG														
	AH														
	AI														
	AJ														
	AK														
<b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>															
		Document Number								Date	COUNTRY	Class	Subclass	TRANSLATION	
														YES	NO
	AL	0	4	4	0	4	0	3	8/1991	Europe					
	AM	0	7	5	5	8	4	2	1/1997	Europe					X
	AN	0	7	9	6	7	8	0	9/1997	Europe					
	AO	3	6	1	9	1	2	5	10/1987	Germany					X
	AP	3	9	1	4	6	0	8	10/1990	Germany					X
	AQ	9	5	4	2	4	7	2	2/1997	Germany					X
<b>OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)</b>															
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EXAMINER											DATE CONSIDERED				